

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 /125 W
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R 072243Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2412

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 4548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NZ

SUBJECT: BILL AUTHORIZING NZ PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY AGREEMENT MEETING OBSTACLES

REF: WELLINGTON 4304

1. INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES OPERATING IN NZ HAVE
RAISED WITH PARLIAMENT THE QUESTION OF COSTS OF MEETING
ENERGY RESERVE OBLIGATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
AGREEMENT. COMPANIES ESTIMATE THAT \$45,000,000 WILL BE
NEEDED TO ASSURE A 30-DAY SUPPLY REQUIRED UNDER THE
AGREEMENT. A BILL AS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT MAKES NO
PROVISION FOR MEETING THESE COSTS. THE COMPANIES SAY THEY
ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO MEET THE COSTS AND ARE URGING
THAT THE BILL BE APPROPRIATELY AMENDED.

2. SHELL OIL NZ LTD. AND MOBIL OIL NZ LTD. HAVE PROPOSED
THAT A COMMITTEE FOR PETROLEUM EMERGENCIES, CONSISTING OF
GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES BE ESTABLISHED.
THE NZ PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION (HAVING IN
MIND THE NOW RESCINDED \$3 PER BARREL LEVY ON PETROLEUM
PRODUCED IN NZ) HAS EXPRESSED FEARS THAT BILL COULD BECOME
ANOTHER MEANS FOR EXERTING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE
PETROLEUM EXPLORATION INDUSTRY. THE ASSOCIATION BELIEVES
THE BILL GOES BEYOND WHAT IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT NEW
ZEALAND'S PART OF THE AGREEMENT.

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3. AT LEAST ONE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP HAS SPOKEN
AGAINST THE BILL BECAUSE OF THE FAR REACHING CONTROL OVER
INDIVIDUALS THAT WOULD BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE
GOVERNMENT IN ENERGY EMERGENCIES.

4. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET WHEN THE BILL WILL BE
REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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